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**MINISTER  
OF HEALTH, SENIORS AND ACTIVE LIVING**

Room 302  
Legislative Building  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0V8  
CANADA

April 02, 2020

Bob Moroz  
Manitoba Association of Health Care Professionals (MAHCP)  
[bobm@mahcp.ca](mailto:bobm@mahcp.ca)

Dear Bob Moroz:

Let me first start my letter by thanking all of your members. This in an unprecedented time in Manitoba, and around the globe, and it is your members who are on the frontline of this pandemic. On behalf of the Government of Manitoba and all Manitobans, we express our deepest gratitude.

Since January, Manitoba's chief provincial public health officer (CPPHO) and I have been urging all Manitobans, and in particular health care workers, to stay home if they are not feeling well. A health care worker showing up to the workplace with any type of symptoms presents a risk not only to patients but to coworkers as well. Unfortunately, over the past days we have learned of examples where this direction has not being followed, and many healthcare workers have now been instructed to self-isolate for 14-days as a consequence.

Therefore, we are acting to immediately implement new measures to enhance the safety of our health system workforce. The CPPHO has implemented screening procedures for all employees entering acute care facilities. This screening requires employees to undergo temperature checks and answer routine questions, to protect against the importation of the COVID-19 virus to health care settings.

In addition, today we are taking a further step to protect patients and staff within our facilities. Effective immediately, universal, continuous personal protective equipment (PPE) will be required for all staff who are in frequent contact with patients. This new protocol will see these staff don PPE, including eye protection, gowns and gloves. Staff will only remove PPE when the equipment has become wet, soiled or damaged as well as at meal breaks and the end of shifts.

Both the temperature checks, mandated questioning and this new PPE protocol have now commenced at acute care facilities throughout the province, and it is my expectation that both of these protocols will be soon be in place for staff administering home care and those working in long term care centres.

Details of these new practices are included in the attached notices to staff as well as at the following links: <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/files/covid-19-staff-screening.pdf> and <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/files/covid-19-universal-ppe-requirements.pdf>

This is a challenging time for all Manitobans but in particular our health care workers. Many people feel fear and anxiety, and this is understandable with so much yet unknown about COVID-19, but we want to assure all Manitobans that there is no greater priority for our government than the health and safety of all patients and staff within the health system.

It is imperative that as we work to fight this pandemic, we work as one team – Team Manitoba. Please do not hesitate to reach out to my office should you have any concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cameron Friesen', written in a cursive style.

Cameron Friesen